

MINUTES

Colorado Springs Utilities Board Meeting Tuesday, July 17, 2024

Utilities Board members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:

Chair Dave Donelson, Vice Chair Yolanda Avila, Lynette Crow-Iverson, Randy Helms, Nancy Henjum, David Leinweber, Mike O'Malley, Brian Risley and Michelle Talarico

Utilities Board Members Excused:

None

Staff members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:

Travas Deal, Renee Adams, Lisa Barbato, Mike Francolino, Tristan Gearhart, Somer Mese, Jay Anderson, Alex Baird, Kerry Baugh, Steve Berry, Steve Carr, Charles Cassidy, Thad Clardy, Andy Colosimo, Sarah Dickson, Matt Dudden, Natalie Eckhart, Marcela Espinoza, Jennifer Franceschelli, Kim Girling, Brian Grim, Mike Gudahl, Lisa Halcomb, Ginny Halvorson, Diana Harmon, Nick Harris, Brittany Harrison, Adam Hegstrom, Tyrone Johnson, Rebecca Kerrigan, Danielle Nieves, Sarah LaBarre, David Longrie, Tara McGowan, Michael Myers, Christian Nelson, Jacqueline Nunez, Christopher Olney, Daniel Olson, David Padgett, Gail Pecoraro, Jessica Rheinschmidt, Scott Shirola, Stuart Smith, Admar Susic, Jennifer Travis, Amy Trinidad, Jennifer Valdois, Natalie Watts, Al Wells and Justin Zeisler

City of Colorado Springs staff members present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:

Chris Bidlack, Renee Congdon, Jamie Fabos, Elli Harris-Mevis and Alex Ryden

Citizens present via Microsoft Teams or Blue River Conference Room:

Susan Beitle, Mike Blumer, William Landin, Michael Gossett, Carrie Guy, Chris Meyer, Scott Smith, Stewart Williams and Joe Wycutt

1. Call to Order

Chair Donelson called the Utilities Board meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and Ms. Gail Pecoraro, Utilities Board Administrator, called the roll.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Pastor Stewart with the Fellowship of the Rockies delivered the invocation, and Board Chair Donelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Consent Calendar

3a. Approval of Utilities Board Meeting Minutes: June 18, 2024 and June 20, 2024 Utilities Board Meeting

3b. Appointment of Chris Meyer as a Regular Member of Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)

A motion was made by Board Member O'Malley with a second by Board Member Crow-Iverson to approve the Utilities Board minutes from the June 18, 2024 and June 20, 2024 Utilities Board meetings as well as the appointment of Chris Meyer as a regular member of the Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC). The Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

4. Customer Comments

Ms. Susan Beitle, customer, spoke and expressed concern on the new metering system and the associated costs for opting out to the analog system and the need to read their own meter. Mr. Travas Deal, Chief Executive Officer, stated that the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is a two-way technology that allows customers to better manage their costs. Mr. Mike Francolino, Chief Customer and Enterprise Services Officer, and Ms. Somer Mese, Chief Operating Officer, stated they would address Ms. Beitle's specific questions offline.

5. Recognition

- Rotational Engineering Employees

Ms. Sarah LaBarre, Engineering Manager, introduced the current Rotational Engineering employees and provided a brief overview of the rotational engineering program within Springs Utilities. The three new rotational engineers are all electrical engineers: Sarah Dickson Jacobs, Will Lundstrom and Daniel Wallace.

Board Member O'Malley asked the approximate length of the onboarding process. Ms. LaBarre said the offer was extended in early March, and the students began work on June 10, 2024. During their first year of employment, they will be exposed to all areas of the organization.

6. Compliance Reports

- I-3 Financial Planning and Budgeting G-8
The I-3 Financial Planning and Budgeting was provided in the meeting packet, and there were no questions.
- E-2 CEO / Board Partnership Responsibilities
 - Water Outlook
 - Electric Cost Adjustment / Gas Cost Adjustment MonitoringThese two reports were provided in the meeting packet. There were no questions.

7. Items Called Off Consent Calendar

There were none.

8. Eastern Wastewater Systems Expansion

Ms. Tara McGowan, Engineering and Design Manager, gave an overview of the Eastern Wastewater Systems Expansion. This project will integrate three wastewater infrastructure projects in Banning Lewis Ranch. This includes more than 17 miles of pipeline and two lift stations.

9. Ft. Carson Water Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA)

Mr. Charles Cassidy, General Manager of Operations, gave an update on the existing intergovernmental agreement between Colorado Springs Utilities and Fort Carson. Colorado Springs Utilities entered into an agreement with Fort Carson in March 2022. Ft. Carson has requested an amendment to this agreement. This agreement has been beneficial to both Springs Utilities and Fort Carson. Fort Carson will reimburse Colorado Springs Utilities for all operations and maintenance expenses.

Board Member O'Malley asked if there have been any supply chain issues. Mr. Mike Gudahl, Senior Planner Analyst, said that Colorado Springs Utilities has encountered some small issues, but currently has a good supply count.

Mr. Deal said that Springs Utilities has shared a very positive partnership with Fort Carson and looks forward to next steps.

10. Board Member Updates

Mr. Helms gave an update on the fiber installation in his neighborhood, saying it has gone well on the north end of town. Citizen concerns are being addressed.

Ms. Henjum shared that at the recent Finance Committee meeting, there was a robust presentation of the 2025 budget. The proposed 2025 budget is currently estimated to be \$1.8 billion (a 21% increase over the 2024 approved budget). Over the next five years, the need to build new infrastructure is unprecedented, with capital projects increasing to \$600 million to \$950 million annually. The full Board will hear the 2025 proposed budget and rate case at the August 21 Utilities Board meeting.

She also shared that during the CEO Lunch today, the Board received the preliminary employee engagement survey information. She was impressed with these scores.

Ms. Avila said that the Personnel Committee met this past Monday. The training being done at the University of Springs Utilities was remarkable. The work being done by the Safety and Health Department was very impressive.

She stated the CEO's mid-year review will be sent to Board Members within the next week.

Mr. Risley gave an update from the Strategic Planning Committee that met yesterday, where an economic development update was given. Springs Utilities continues to partner with Peak Innovation Park and has worked with 17 prospect opportunities so far in 2024. The reserve capacity process was also discussed.

Chair Donelson was impressed with the Employee Climate Survey scores, especially those related to leadership and supervisors.

11. Summary of Board Actions

- Approval of June 18 and June 20, 2024, Utilities Board Minutes.
- Approval of the appointment of Chris Meyer as Regular Member of Utilities Board Advisory Committee (UPAC).

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.